

Town Hall on Proposal to Establish a NOAA Climate Service
NOAA Auditorium, Silver Spring, MD
February 16, 2010

Dr. Lubchenco:

Good morning. Thank you so much for joining us. Let's get organized up here. As you know this is a Town Hall that we have organized to provide you information and give you opportunity to ask questions about our new proposal to create the new NOAA Climate Service.

As you know we intended to have a Town Hall last Monday and announce what we were doing giving you the opportunity to ask questions but "snowmageddon" had other plans in mind for all of us so I thank you for your patience in delaying this, but I actually think we are in the better position now to be having a conversation with all of you about this because of the things that we have been able to do last week.

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge the presence on the stage with me here of NOAA leadership, the key role that they play not only in this particular discussion we have been having, but throughout all of the things that we do at NOAA. I also want to recognize in the audience, Dan Sobien, president of the National Weather Service Employees Union, thank you for joining us today, Dan.

Hopefully by now you all had a chance to read my all hand message sent out February 8, announcing our intent to create the NOAA Climate Service and provided links to background materials on the web. The same day that I sent that out, I was able to have a call-in press conference with Secretary Locke to announce the intent to create the NOAA Climate Service, and to take questions from the media and begin the roll-out announcement. Undoubtedly, many of you seen some of the press coverage resulting from that.

I want to begin simply saying how important it is that we are at this point in time with this announcement. The NOAA Climate Service will strengthen climate science and service delivery and significantly boost our accessible as well as our visibility to NOAA's many users across the country and around the world.

Although he was unable to be with us today, Secretary Locke has continued to be a very strong champion for the concept of a NOAA Climate Service and in view of the fact that he was unable to be here I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the few brief remarks he prepared. So if we can roll that, please.

Maybe you have to imagine what he is saying. Do we have audio with this? This is posted on the website. How many of you have already viewed this? A few of you. Do I have to do that from up here. I didn't jiggle anything, I promise. Technology. Wow, success, thank you. I'm not sure which of those worked, but ...

Secretary Locke:

Hello. I'm sorry I'm not able to be with you in person given the snow storm, particularly when there is such exciting news to announce.

Monday morning, we rolled out NOAA's new Climate Service.

Millions of requests already come in each year seeking NOAA's weather-related expertise.

But with the inception of the Climate Service, the expertise of NOAA's climate scientists will be gathered under one roof in order to better provide industries, localities, and governments comprehensive climate information.

And this announcement couldn't come at a more important time. Climate change represents a real threat to America and the world's health, our wealth and our productivity.

And increasingly, people are asking what they can do to prepare themselves, their communities and their businesses for its effects.

The Climate Service means there will be one climate office which will be more easily accessible to a wider array of users across just about every sector.

And this reorganization can be good for the economy, and can help create new jobs.

There's no reason why a new industry based upon Climate Services information can't grow up in the same way that today's billion dollar weather industry has grown up around NOAA's National Weather Service.

We know global warming poses significant challenges.

But we also have unprecedented knowledge about our climate, thanks to NOAA's scientist. And the new Climate Service will enable America's private industry to easily access and leverage this incredibly important information.

Before closing, let me to turn my attention to our Department's most important assets – you, our employees.

It's never easy to make changes that affect staff. While there may be short-term disruptions, I am confident this is the right decision for NOAA.

I know Dr. Lubchenco and her team will make every effort to minimize disruptions and maximize opportunities for staff. And I have no doubt that someday many millions of Americans and others throughout the world will be even more grateful to NOAA for getting ahead of the curve when it comes to climate change.

Thank you -- and I wish you every success in your efforts.

Dr. Lubchenco:

As I mentioned I really appreciate the Secretary's support of this, and hope you will take an opportunity to communicate to him how much you appreciate his leadership. I think it goes without saying that the idea of NOAA Climate Service is an idea whose time has come and the announcements we've made the conversations that we are having, the plans underway, are strong evidence of that.

As Secretary Locke mentioned NOAA already receives millions request each year for information for climate, climate activity links, data, and climate forecasts. It makes sense that we are thinking strategically about how to respond to them in a more effective fashion.

As the Secretary also mentioned the impacts of climate change are well underway, and so the opportunities to provide information to Americans is in fact quite timely. Just as our nation depends upon the National Weather Service to protect lives and property, as recently demonstrated with the forecasts and warnings that guided the actions during last week's snowstorm, so too with the NOAA Climate Service being invaluable contribution to our nation's prosperity and well being.

The National Weather Service traces its roots back 140 years.

This NOAA Climate Service would mark the birth of a new service. This one focused on climate and I think the Secretary is right to focus our attention on what we want the legacy of this to be years down the road. So this highly anticipated announcement, something many of you have been working on for over a year, marks another milestone in our long and exemplary history.

Over the past year we thoroughly studied a variety of alternatives of how NOAA best meets its climate related needs. We have benefited substantially from input from many of you, but also from many of our partners around the nation, our advisory board, stakeholders, the national academies and our regional and academic partners. The plans that we have put together have benefited significantly from all of that input.

As you know our existing framework for climate services evolved at a time before we knew that we would need to be able to be as responsive as demands are requesting now. I want to thank the employees who have done such a spectacular job to date, rising to the challenge of providing climate information within the existing framework, but also acknowledge that the demands are growing.

We must be more visible. We have to be more accessible and be more responsive to users across all sectors. At the same time we want to continue to grow our science of climate change and to better align that science with delivery of services. I greatly appreciate the sustained and impressive efforts of many NOAA employees who have provided input on how we can best do this.

We believe that the time to act is now to advance NOAA Climate Service and to meet critical climate needs, so we are proposing a new NOAA Climate Service to provide a single, visible and responsive point of entry into our excellent climate work.

As most of you know, Tom Carl, the director of NCDC, has agreed to serve as the transitional director of the NOAA Climate Service. As you can see the building blocks of NOAA Climate Service will be drawn from existing line offices. Let me walk you through this. From OAR, the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, the Climate Program Office, and from the Earth System Research Laboratory – the Chemical Sciences Division, the Global Monitoring Division and the Physical Sciences Division. From NESDIS the three data centers -- the National Climatic Data Center, the National Oceanographic Data Center and the National Geophysical Data Center, as well as the Comprehensive Large Array Stewardship System (CLASS) program office.

Finally the Climate Service Office will assume management of the relevant climate networks from the National Weather Service including the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean Atmospheric Array, the historical climate network and the modernization of hourly precipitation gauges.

I note that there will be not be any programmatic changes to NOS, to NESDIS, or to OMAO. And I want to underscore that OAR will continue to serve as a vital NOAA line office incubating new research that leads to new knowledge as well as many valuable products and services.

As all of you know, OAR made significant contributions to the science that opened the eyes of the world to the risks of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change and ocean acidification. Growing new research within OAR as well as strengthening the science across all of NOAA remain top priorities.

NOAA's federal employees and our contractors form a terrific team and as the challenges of climate change grow so too must NOAA's work. There is indeed plenty to do. I want you to be assured that while the nature of some of the positions may change, no NOAA federal employee will be out of a job with the changes that we envision, and we do not expect anyone to need to relocate.

We are fully aware and are committed to fulfilling all of our labor relations obligations associated with the creation and the operation of the NOAA Climate Service and we greatly appreciate the assistance of the NOAA Weather Service Employees Organization leadership as we move ahead with these plans.

I want to also stress the point that the changes that we are making with this reorganization will not meet all of the demands that we envision for climate services. For example, the nation is looking to NOAA for linkages between weather and climate and sea level rise and climate change. That will require working close relationships across line offices. Meeting those challenges effectively is a NOAA-wide challenge and will be a NOAA-wide endeavor.

So although we are reorganizing internally to provide more visibility, more effective delivery of connecting the signs to the service and delivery of services, this still remains a NOAA-wide effort. Thus with the single line office rather than our current dispersed structure, NOAA will be better prepared to continue its internationally recognized role in end-to-end development and delivery of climate science, tools, products and information.

Our agency will be a stronger partner and in a better position to help America for the impacts of climate variability and climate change and more unified in mitigating human influence on climate. The vision, mission and three strategic goals reflect extensive input that was factored into and continues to be factor into the planning process for the proposed climate office.

The goals that you see here guided our decision-making process. These goals shape our commitment to stay closely connected to NOAA users to ensure that the communication is working as well as possible to promote integrated service delivery nationally and across regions. We need to know that we are making the right tools available and these resources are reliable, timely and readily accessible.

As we build the climate science and service office, we will work closely with our regional, state, federal and academic and other partners, because indeed, no single agency can tackle climate change alone. And we must work effectively within the federal family, leverage other partnerships and address other gaps as needed.

As NOAA's new science enterprise evolves we will also need to be vigilant tracking societal needs and in particular appreciate the growing need to link natural and socio-economic sciences to decision-making. Also I want to underscore that the NOAA Climate Service will help NOAA to be a better partner to our other federal and regional partners.

As our nation gears up a unified federal response to address the nation's climate challenge, our new structure will help us ensure that we are a lead and a vital player. An important element of effective climate service is the interface with partners and users, and much of this happens locally and regionally.

The new NOAA Climate Service will place a high priority on integrated program on science and services support decision-making at local, state and regional levels. And as such I was pleased to announce last week that NOAA is establishing six new regional climate service director positions. The job announcements for these are posted on USAJobs.Gov through March 9. These positions demonstrate our early commitment to provide leadership and integrating climate service portfolio in a regional context. The directors will draw on NOAA's agency wide capabilities to manage and execute a regional climate services strategic plan that is currently under development. They will bridge interests with federal and other regional partners and they will be central players in regional, climate assessment activities. NOAA already has extensive regional climate capabilities and leveraging them will be one of the most important outcomes in the line

office. The six positions will be located in the National Weather Service Regional Headquarters as you see on this map.

The final part to the announcements that we made last Monday was the public release of the NOAA Climate Portal. This site will serve as a single point of entry for NOAA's climate information, data, products and services and as a terrific online complement to the proposed new office. The portal is a first step in making the rich scope of NOAA's data and information more relevant, easier to find and easier to use.

For those of you who have not yet visited the portal I encourage you to do so, and for those of you who have been intimately involved in this effort across the entire agency, thank you for your hard work. It has evolved very, very quickly and it has changed directions many times in response to great input that we have received. And I think it is a really nice example how we mobilize and get something done quickly and efficiently. This has been a heavy lift for many offices and I fully recognize that, but it's very important one for us to communicate what we do to the broader world.

Some of the exciting features on the NOAA climate portal include the innovative online magazine. The climate dashboard which you see here lets users see a range of constantly updating climate data sets. Information about the climate data and products that NOAA and partners offer are accompanied by easily understood presentations about climate science and climate impacts. There is much, much more in this dynamic website and much more to come. The next time somebody asks you what NOAA's climate work is all about, you can now invite them to this site, Climate.gov, and they can see for themselves.

Last Monday's announcement and today's Town Hall are just the beginning of this process. We intend to keep you regularly updated and informed throughout the transition. Last week while the rest of us were stuck here in Washington shoveling snow or on our phones doing the business of NOAA, even though the government was shut down, Mary Glackin lead a meeting in Boulder that included all line offices to begin mapping out an implementation strategy considering how we can make this reorganization as smooth as possible. When I am through with my remarks, Mary will provide the initial overview of what was discussed during that workshop.

In the coming months some of NOAA's leadership will be on the road to help explain FY11 partners. And I am delighted about the timing because it also provides us with a good chance for you to ask questions about the proposed NOAA Climate Service. We plan to visit Princeton, Asheville and other NOAA sites to continue to engage NOAA employees. And in the coming months, Mary Glackin will work with line and staff office leadership to continue to ensure that perspectives from every line office are considered in decision-making and implementation plans.

A reprogramming package will be submitted to the Department of Commerce this spring, and then to OMB, after which it will be given to Congress for consideration. Until then we will continue to provide the climate services that we already deliver, produce

world class scientific advances in understanding climate change, and share data and information and knowledge about climate change in multiple ways.

I appreciate all of you working so hard to make all of that possible. For more information, you will find questions and answers, the proposed reorganization chart, the PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets, handouts, the recording of last Monday's press conference and other new materials online at the website www.noaa.gov/climate.

We know that you will have lots of questions as we move forward, and we encourage you to talk to your superiors and managers as your line office leadership are and will continually be engaged in implementation of this proposal.

We have also created an e-mail address where you can submit your comments or questions to us. We will monitor that account doing our best to update the questions and answers and other online materials to address those as best we can. And that e-mail address is climateservice@NOAA.gov.

I want to express my deep personal appreciation to many of you for your patience with this process. I specially want to thank our employees in OAR, the National Weather Service and NESDIS who will experience the bulk of the changes. I fully realize that uncertainty can be challenging and that arriving at this decision has been a long time in coming for many of you.

I am excited to be moving forward, and I am very grateful to all of our employees for your willingness to help us be more effective, chart some new directions, work together, and take some new risks in a way to benefit the nation.

I now want to turn the podium over to Mary to discuss the Boulder workshop. Then we will open up the floor for questions from all of you who are here in Silver Spring, folks who are on e-mail and folks who are on the phone.

So with that, I invite Mary to join us and we will continue. Mary.

Glackin: Thank you Dr. Lubchenco. Good Morning everyone, it is a pleasure to be here. As Dr. Lubchenco indicated, I had the pleasure last week of being in Boulder, Colorado with more than 50 NOAA scientists, leaders and managers from all the line offices in NOAA, and in particular leadership from each laboratory, center, or office that is directly impacted by this reorganization.

To spend time focusing on this problem, we spent two and a half days there and the charge to the participants the charge it was two-fold.

First, we asked the participants to propose internal organizational structures for the NOAA Climate Service. As Dr. Lubchenco just showed you we were merely at this point listing what is in it - we didn't define the internal wiring if you will of that office. So we asked the participants to help us to define that.

The second charge was to identify challenges, opportunities and recommendations for enhancing NOAA's science enterprise including OAR under this reorganization. So I'll briefly tell you how the report out from the workshop in each of these two areas.

First, with respect to the NOAA Climate Service there was very clear agreement on a number of common themes. One theme had to do with regional emphasis. It was that regional services and science would be tremendously important, and it was very important in the final internal organizational structure that that be visible within the organizational structure at one of the highest levels.

The second theme was the integration of the climate science and the climate service that will both be in the NOAA Climate Service was key to the success of the service. However, there needed to be very visible mechanisms for integrating between science and services and strong agreement on that, and in fact one of the phrases was there is really no tolerance for what some of us have come to call the valley of death of crossing from research and operations.

And then a third theme that I would emphasize here is the advisory function for the NOAA Climate Service. And it was recognized that we had to benefit both from interagency as well as intraagency function. So whether externally we continue to use the NOAA Science Advisory Board for giving us function or giving us advice or we reestablish something else, that needs to be addressed.

Then finally that within NOAA, as Dr. Lubchenco just highlighted, there are so many connections within NOAA. Whether it is addressing sea level rise, impacts to living marine resources or the weather climate connection, we needed a corporate or advisory function spanning across all of NOAA for this line office. With respect to options for how to organize the line office there were two options coming out of the workshop. Both had pros and cons associated with them, all workshop participants would agree that both needed further work.

But the theme of the first option was to organize functionally and it highlighted three functional areas: data, observations and monitoring being the first; research modeling and analysis the second; and decision support and regional services the third area.

The second option that was looked at was a grouping of our laboratories and centers under a particular structure there so that you really had your science aligned in one area and then the same grouping of decision support and regional services that was common in both options, and then to have the integration office that built across those two arms.

We will certainly be looking at both of these options presented as well as the pros and cons and the various participants of the workshop are invited to continue to provide further thoughts and input through close of business today before we move forward here. And we will keep you up to date on decisions that are made as we go forward.

Turning to the second charge of the workshop, with respect to strengthening science in NOAA and with OAR under this organization, there was recognition of required activities to ensure that you have a strong science enterprise. This included mission relevance and in particular ensuring that your science and research actually connected to the application. It recognized leadership in our people, leaders of our line offices, investments in our scientists and work force, and assurance of the highest quality of sciences as we move forward. It also recognized partnerships and how vital our linkages are to our cooperative institutes, joint institutes, university partners, as well as other partnership structure, like our Science Advisory Board. Finally, but not least, it recognized that we have a responsibility to communicate our science and to market it if you will so we know the great work we do.

With respect to envisioning OAR's role in the future, I think there was a strong recognition that science and research underpins all of our line offices so that the role of OAR in future would need to recognize where each of line offices were and provide complementary research, and not try to be duplicative what is happening in the line offices.

Also it recognized that across NOAA overall we need to have to have transformational research. We need to be able to make investments that are risky investments, but have the real payoff in the end, probably not solely in OAR.

The workshop recognized both within climate and with the broader science enterprise that nobody needs to strengthen investments in social and economic science. As we move forward, it is something that our services are demanding from us now, and an area that we have to focus on.

So I will conclude with that knowing that you have a lot of questions about how diagrams look and things like that. I am telling you that we are going to continue to populate the website that you saw here today, we will be setting up internal website for NOAA employees where we will be a little freer to put up more information and that is coming in the coming weeks as well. Thank you.

Dr. Lubchenco: Thanks Mary, and thanks to all the folks who participated in the Boulder workshop. Many of you traveled under less than ideal weather conditions and spent a very intense couple of days really thinking hard about how to put some real structure and purpose to what has been here-to-fore a fairly generic decision. Not that there hasn't been a lot of thought that went into it but there is a lot of work yet to be done. So a shout out to all the folks from the Boulder workshop.

I want to emphasize what Mary said about this being really important time for us, a lot of thought went into getting us where we are now and yet there are a lot of decisions yet to be made. The input from that workshop, the input from all of you is very timely and very helpful. There were terrific suggestions and ideas that came out of the Boulder workshop and we will build upon those and work together to chart what this new line

office will look like, how it will relate to other line offices, how it will relate to our federal partners, regional partners, advisers, but also how we will continue to strengthen science within NOAA.

So with those as opening comments on where we are now and how we are thinking about things, I am pleased to open up the floor to your questions. I have asked Mary to stay up here on the stage with me so that she can chime in as appropriate.

What I would like to do is alternate questions from here in Silver Spring with any submitted by folks who dialed in by phone or folks who have emailed questions; we will toggle back and forth between those three as appropriate. There are microphones available here and I invite you to step to microphone and pose a question or make a comment if you have any.

Question from Silver Spring: Start with a question here. I will start with the third line on the screens behind you that says NOAA's Climate Service. I am wondering, it says NOAA's Climate Service as opposed to National Climate Service. Is this is an attempt to build the brand name of NOAA or is this more of a statement of the fact that is only NOAA's contribution to a national federal climate activity?

Dr. Lubchenco: Thank you for the question. I am sure it is one on many of your minds, so I appreciate your willingness to pose it. As many of you know when we first started having this dialogue we called the thing that we were talking about, the National Climate Service. Yet it became increasingly obvious in communications with our other federal partners that many other federal agencies have assets that are important and should contribute to an overall federal enterprise. And so we made the decision to call this the NOAA Climate Service as a way of emphasizing that we are providing science and services and that this is NOAA's contribution, but that there is plenty of room for other federal players as there should be. That is the explanation, we are not trying to just waive the NOAA flag as important it is, but we are trying to - this is an internal reorganization to get our act together to better deliver what the country needs. I believe that NOAA clearly has a leadership role in this and we will continue to work with other agencies to define exactly how we interact with and relate to our other federal partners.

Other questions?

Question from Silver Spring: First of all, I think this is enormously good news, a lot of us have been hoping for this for many years and we really appreciate all the work that went into it. One question as far as an outfit's name I didn't see on there. Can you comment on the role of the Climate Prediction Center?

Dr. Lubchenco: Mary, if you want to take that.

Glackin: That you, that's a good question and one that probably on many people's minds. We looked at that very carefully and at the issue of the weather / climate

connection, we are frequently asked when does weather start and when does climate begin, and there is a real recognition that there is not a crisp overlap there, that there is really is a blending in that time frame.

We made explicit decision to leave the Climate Prediction Center in the National Weather Service. However as Wayne Higgins, who was at the workshop last week, we spent a good time talking about, that they need to be very strongly connected to the NOAA Climate Center as well as playing a very strong role in working with the forecast offices and the river forecast centers in helping to be a conduit for climate information. We view the National Weather Service forecast offices and river forecast centers as a very strong service delivery outlets that will assist in this process. So we kind of have been talking about the prediction center as being a bridge organization between the two.

Dr. Lubchenco: Any questions by e-mail

Question from E-Mail: We received a number of questions from the National Weather Service. This one is those of us who are climate focal points out in field, the National Weather Service offices are very interested in the progress of climate services expected over the next several years. I realize that no major steps are eminent, but are there any plans in future say 3 to 5 or 5 to 10 years to increase support to perform climate service functions in national weather service offices, such as adding a full time position dedicated to climate services in some or all weather forecast offices. Also will there be additional career opportunities associated with NOAA Climate Service at the regional level? Thank you.

Dr. Lubchenco: Let me begin and then I'll ask Mary to chime in on this. Thank you for the question. Obviously one reasons for collating our regional Climate Service directors with our regional National Weather Service offices is the acknowledgement of the close interaction and great opportunities that those offices have for building good effective partnerships. I think that there is every reason to believe that we will continue to strengthen our regional presence in these areas and there may well be career opportunity down the road. We are not envisioning any new positions immediately. And what the future looks like five, ten years down the road is hard to envision. Right now we are focused really on the internal reorganizations and building a structure that will be durable and will be able to evolve through time. Mary.

Glackin: Thank you. I will build on that and expand on it a little bit. Certainly as the Weather Service Forecast Office personnel know, they are in the frontline of receiving a lot of requests for information, whether it is on seasonal or longer term, so as I alluded to in earlier response, building capacity there will be important for us as we move forward. I want to expand it to broader to NOAA though the concept that we have for Climate Services is that is services need to be integrated with other services we provide. NOAA provides a wealth of services today to coastal managers and they need climate information as well as the basic coastal services that we have been providing. And in that fashion we know we have to work to build capacity and capability in there

and I could make similar statements about other areas as well, if you're working with ports, they want to know what is going to happen. So I think there is really a call here for all of us to be thinking about how climate is impacting the constituents you are working with and now you will have a place to reach back within NOAA to get assistance for that.

Dr. Lubchenco: Any questions by phone. Not at this time. Lets take another e-mail. Then we did two from here, let's be fair. One more from e-mail please

Question from E-mail: I see in the news that NASA has announced expanded effort to study climate, won't their effort duplicative of what NOAA is trying to implement?

Dr. Lubchenco: NASA is one of our federal agencies, sister federal agencies, that has considerable expertise in climate and it is certainly appropriate they too expand their presence. I see our efforts being nicely complementary and I think that we will be continuing to have discussions with not only NASA but other federal agencies about how we not be duplicative but how we can be complementary both on the science side as well as the service delivery side. Louisa.

Question from Silver Spring: Thank you. As the snowstorms swirled in Washington, there were many people voicing the opinion that this was clear proof that climate change was not happening. You were given the opportunity, I think because you have so much credibility personally and by the way, thank you very much for bringing that credibility to NOAA because it is tremendously valuable to our agency at this time when I think perhaps we are at the end of the beginning of the discussion on climate change. But what I am wondering, you were asked to speak on science Friday, and Diane Rehme, you were fielding a lot of different questions and since we will go out and speak on behalf of NOAA, I am wondering, are there one or two or three key points that you think we need to be echoing as we speak on behalf of NOAA and try and make the case that the snowstorm is not the end of the climate change science.

Dr. Lubchenco: Thank you for that question Louisa. And I do think a lot of people are asking those questions. What we need to do is to create a mechanism for having and sharing timely Qs and As on questions like this to anyone at NOAA, not this is the party line you have to say this, but in a way that provides you with the information you need to be answering your neighbor's questions or your colleague's questions. I think that is a very, that would be a very useful thing for us to do.

A lot of what has been happening is trying to connect with the scientists within NOAA to formulate simple answers to what are actually pretty complicated questions and complicated phenomena. I think we need to go the next step and share it more broadly throughout NOAA and in a way that provides everyone with more information.

So thank you. That is terrific idea. Go to the phone.

Question from Telephone: Dr. Lubchenco, this Dan Thompson with the National Weather Service. We are over in building two watching you on the webcast.

Dr. Lubchenco: OK, I can hear you.

Question from Telephone: There is question from the international office. We are curious if you can share any of your plans how the new climate service will be doing its international activities, its international cooperation?

Glackin: We will do them really good. Seriously, NOAA has incredible international leadership built in science and we stepped off at the World Climate Conference III this last fall. Dr. Lubchenco led the delegation for the climate services. It is clearly our intent to continue to build on that, to be good partners to encourage capacity development around the world. How we will actually organize within the climate office, we haven't work through it yet. I should have said this before; I didn't because seemed to be too much detail. But last week we focused on the basic mission components, not the headquarters level so we will be working on those in the coming weeks.

Dr. Lubchenco: Another question from email.

Question from E-Mail: Yes, do you anticipate any objections from Congress about the reorganization?

Dr. Lubchenco: Obviously there has been keen interest on the part of many members in Climate Services and as you know there has been language included in many of the climate bills that have been introduced and are being drafted. We fully anticipate continuing to connect with members of Congress both those on our authorizing committees as well as our appropriation committees so that we can move ahead with this internal reorganization and with the resources that will be needed to do what we think needs to be done. So we will continue to have those conversations.

We believe that the current legislation that exists gives us the authority to do, to provide climate

Services and that is what we have been doing, and viewing this internal reorganization as again a reorganization of existing assets. Once we do that to grow new services and grow new capacity we will require additional resources. So there is both an organizational component as well as a resource component and we fully expect to be working closely with the key members of Congress in doing that? I think it is pretty clear that members of Congress have many different views on climate change. But that regardless of those views, I think it is important that we have access to information and that information is as credible and current as it can be and that is in fact what we are trying to do with this climate service.

Other questions from here in Silver Spring for the microphones. Ok, let's go to the phone. No more phone. E-mail.

Question from E-Mail: Federal contractors play a key role in helping NOAA's programs and offices carry out their missions, will contractors be a part of the new climate service?

Dr. Lubchenco: Yes, they will be, just as they are a part of other things.

Glackin: Yes, that is right, the things I have been saying to people is our partnerships, in fact it is under one of our goals building partnerships, and our partnerships and whether they are contractors or cooperative institutes really contribute to NOAA's strength and expect more work as we go into the future and not less work, so we look forward to long partnerships.

Question from Silver Spring: Good morning, it is not obvious to me and I am trying to understand why isn't NOS and NMFS part of the Climate Services if in fact we are stewards of the ocean and our coasts and not only are we a science organization but we are also a management organization. I am trying to understand the rationale, and if you can offer up something to clarify why not.

Dr. Lubchenco: Thank you for raising that. It highlights the challenges that we have had over the last year and even before that in trying to think about how do we deliver information about climate that in fact relates to almost everything we do. But in a way that is manageable.

And clearly climate change affects fisheries, coastal areas, and affects so much of what we do across every line office. The decisions that we made that are part of how we are envisioning this new line office, focused more specifically on what is the information about climate change that is directly the science of climate change that is directly relevant to a core service providing line office and how do we work within existing units to coalesce a critical mass of people to be doing the science and service delivery without having everybody in NOAA into a single line office, that just doesn't work. So, I think that was the guiding principle that we were employing and it simply highlights the importance of connecting across line offices. That what this new line office will do needs to benefit from and contribute to what NOS does, and what NMFS does, what every single line office does, what the Weather Service does, et cetera. So, hopefully that provides a bit of explanation, you cannot have everything into a single office you have to make some decisions the ones that decided were ones core functions that would make a cohesive package.

Another question.

Question from Silver Spring: This question is more for Mary. I work OAR. One of the objectives is to strengthen NOAA science in terms of being able to communicate and to market that science as well as to the effectively manage and strengthen the science, could you expand upon why you would not align all research under one research line office especially if you're also concerned with bringing out redundancy or duplicity research across NOAA.

Glackin: That's actually that is good for you.

Glackin: We had lots and lots discussions about this very thing and there probably is no one right answer. I think it is fair to say that if you look across existing line offices some have more fundamental research that's being done than others. There is no one right model for facilitating growing new scientific information and making sure that the information is in service of the mission and contributing to the regulatory function for example, within fisheries, or the delivery of service function within NOS for example.

There is no one right model for that, and pulling all of the science out of all the line offices and sticking it into OAR would be very disruptive, would disassociate the tight good collaborations and connections that exist between science and regulation, or science and service delivery that is important. And so we evolved to not, and one of our basic principles in doing this was to not -- it was to do the minimum required to create something that is durable and effective, and not to be disrupting everything else. And therefore we made the decision to take some sciences from OAR to put into this new line office and to acknowledge that the science that exists in other line offices, that is doing well and is vibrant and is connected to the management functions needs to stay there and be strengthened.

At the same time a lot of science that we are not doing that we need to be doing. So OAR can be viewed as a vital place for incubating new research, some of which is obviously relevant to other line offices some of which maybe relevant to only down the road. So, again, it is not a perfect world, it is not a perfect solution but those were some of the considerations that we considered in deciding which pieces to move at this point.

I personally am committed to strengthening science in every line office and continuing to keep OAR vital and strong and look forward to working with the great suggestions that came out of the Boulder workshop towards that end as well as with many of you to make sure that we can do that strengthening within and across line offices. It is also is a question of keeping the pieces connected across the line offices. Did you want to add anything to that? No. How about from the e-mail.

Question from E-Mail: This is a funding question. A number of new expanded areas of responsibility have been described especially with regards to public outreach and service delivery. Will there be new money applied to meeting these new responsibilities or money programmed from other climate areas such as long-term research?

Dr. Lubchenco: The proposal that we have put forward to create this new line office is independent of new resources. We are coalescing or re-organizing internally, so that is the first part of my answer.

The second part is that to truly deliver the services that we think the country needs will require growing new capacity, growing new partnerships, growing new science, growing new services and doing that will undoubtedly require new resources. So the proposal is

independent of new resources, focusing on existing assets, but down road we believe we will need additional resources to move in the directions that we think we can and should be and that the nation needs. Mary.

Glackin: Just want to footnote one point you make to me so often and that is the care that we need to take to ensure the risks that were highlighted by that question, weakening our longer-term research capacity to meet these short-term need isn't taken, so it is something that we have talked about quite a bit and definitely we need to build new capability with resources.

Dr. Lubchenco: Do we have another question from the phone no email.

Question from E-Mail: Question for the past two years NESDIS has been undergoing reorganization. Does the siphoning of the data centers and other entities mean that NESDIS will become too small to support a line office structure? There are rumors of a NESDIS and National Weather Service merger does this now become a possibility?

Glackin: I don't think so. It has not entered my mind. I think that NESDIS' responsibilities have continued to grow with the acquisition of satellites and the president's FY11 budget that just rolled-out really reinforce that. It is a case you won't always measure the size of a line office -- there are a variety of ways you measure sizes of line offices and you look at the complexity of missions and both the size of the challenge that is in front of NESDIS with Satellite acquisitions, operations, service delivery as well as the uniqueness of that mission compared to some of the other ones leaves us very comfortable it is line office on its own.

Dr. Lubchenco: I will say also that I think NESDIS is very strong, very vital and I greatly appreciate the NESDIS leadership and what they are doing. As Mary indicated they have some new responds vitally to our ability to continue to get good information for climate as well as for weather, and that is a very important central function. So, thanks to NESDIS for doing everything that you are doing and everything that you will be in the coming couple of years.

Other email questions.

Question from E-Mail: Not all of the climate related science is part of proposed service such as ocean acidification in great lakes climate. How will those topics relate to and work with the proposed climate service?

Dr. Lubchenco: This was part of your discussions in Boulder.

Glackin: Yes, this is one of the things that we talked about at Boulder and did not get as far down the path as we will need to in the coming weeks. But it is very clear we are doing cross line office collaboration on a number of these areas today -- on the issue

ocean acidification, the connection between OAR and National Marine Fisheries Service. So we have talked mechanisms like various projects being one to bring various assets together, problem driven research where contributions from multiple line offices. So I think we need a little more time to work out those but very clear in all of these areas with all of the other line offices these lines of connectivity need to happen.

Dr. Lubchenco: Is that it for questions? Yes, one more from the phone.

(Bad connection)

Question from Telephone: The question is, Dr. Lubchenco, in regards to the need to collaborate across line offices, I was wondering if the regional collaboration teams will be left to play that role?

Dr. Lubchenco: Did you understand that?

Glackin: The question was, with respect to collaborating across line offices, the question was does NOAA's regional collaboration teams have a role to play here. And the answer is yes. I highlighted before particularly with respect to climate, the need to have regional emphasis and as part of that, the NOAA regional collaboration teams were in that mix, Laura Furgione was there working with other members on the team, so I think that will become more visible in the coming weeks.

Dr. Lubchenco: Another question.

Question from Silver Spring: Thank you for the forum to be able to present questions and hear your answers. In knowing that your Boulder meeting is just one meeting, and it was high level, it doesn't answer everything, but there was a level of specific detail in your organizational chart that surprised me a little bit. In the observations section it was mentioned that the historic climate network which is merely a database of a bigger network of observing systems -- a cooperative program network, and assuming that the next dot in your organizational chart, the hourly precipitation gauge replacement is the ongoing effort of the National Weather Service to replace paper tape punches with data logged observational equipment for the precipitation gauges that are also a part of that Coop. program.

I am part of a team that works within the Weather Service on the Coop. program. So I am wondering how does that work that you mentioned those two specific and not the Coop. program overall and the second part I was surprised that the newer program HCMN, which is total separate thing was not on the board, will you care elaborate or can you elaborate?

Glackin: Thank you Joel for the good questions. I think driving us here was I think who owned the requirements for those networks and the particular ones that are called out here were our belief that the primary sponsor requirement for that will come out of this NOAA Climate Service and some of the other observing things you talk about were,

haven't really been driven by requirements from climate even though they have the word climate in them. So, that is the rationale.

Dr. Lubchenco: Joel, let me also comment to you that the process of making these decisions has been somewhat constrained because until we had the approval to announce the intent to reorganize, which we did last week, we could not be engaging with all of you and all the rest of the NOAA employees in a fashion that is necessary to be making the more specific decisions. If anyone expected announcement to be the whole thing flushed out in super great detail, I am sorry to disappoint you, we need you to help us to do that. So where we are in the process now, and I want to be really clear about this, is now being able to say let's start the dialogue that builds on the initial key decisions that have been made, but figure out what that actually looks like in specific terms and how to make it work, and how to have the connections across the pieces and how to have the functioning within the unit, how to design the unit, et cetera.

So, this is the process of doing that now we can talk about openly and we can have these discussions and we can be having the workshops and as mentioned earlier there has been the workshop in Boulder but there will be additional opportunities both as standalone discussions as well as ones connected to our regional roll-out of the FY11 budget to talk in more specific terms about how we are really going to make this work. So thank you everybody for your understanding that that is where we are in the process and your willingness to help us to identify how to make not only this new line office, but all of NOAA as strong and as vibrant as possible.

It is absolutely key that this new line office be as vibrant and as strong as we can make it and not that only happens when all of you who are in that line offices or in related line offices are working together with the same common vision.

Do we have any more questions?

Yes, one more on the phone. No.

Dr. Lubchenco: Thank you all so much for joining us and thanks to those of you who have been helping us have discussions and the rest of you that are going to be engaging in the discussions as we move ahead from here. This is very exciting opportunity for us. I came in thinking no new massive reorganization and yet here we are because it was the right thing to do and it builds on the discussions that many of you have been having for a long time. Now it is the time to bring those discussions to fruition.

Thank you for joining us. Make good use of the website, send us additional questions, talk to your line office management, continue to let us know what you are thinking and how you advise we move ahead with these very important things. Thanks to NOAA leadership and big thanks to Mary. Thank you everybody.

(Applause)

End